

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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TAGS: PARM, TECH, AG
SUBJECT: NPT AND LTBT: ALGERIAN POSITION

REF: (A) STATE 294526, (B) STATE 303184

1. EMBOFF MET WITH BEN YAQUB OF ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION DEC 29 TO DISCUSS
ALGERIAN POSITION ON NPT AND LTBT. BEN YAQUB MADE FOLLOWING
POINTS:

A. NPT: AS ALGERIAN DELEGATE HAD EXPLAINED IN SESSION
OF UN'S FIRST COMMITTEE EARLIER THIS WINTER, ALGERIA HAD NOT
SIGNED NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY BECAUSE GOA CONSIDERED
DOCUMENT INCOMPLETE AND UNEFORCED. ALGERIANS BELIEVE THAT
WHILE UNIVERSAL DISARMAMENT IS DIFFICULT, EVEN
UTOPIAN GOAL, IT IS ONE WORTH PURSUING; THEY DO NOT BELIEVE,
HOWEVER, THAT NPT IS EVEN REASONABLE STEP TOWARDS THIS IDEAL.
ALTHOUGH POSSESSING NEITHER MEANS NOR WILL TO ACQUIRE
NUCLEAR ARMS OR SOPHISTICATED NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, ALGERIANS
RELUCTANT TO RESTRICT THEIR OPTIONS IN THIS DOMAIN WHEN
OTHERS CLEARLY UNWILLING TO DO SO.

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B. MANY STATES, INCLUDING NPT ADHERENTS,
APPEAR TO HAVE NO INTENTION OF RESPECTING SPIRIT OF
TREATY. SOVIET UNION, FOR EXAMPLE, REMAIN ARMED TO
TEETH AND CONTINUES TO REFINE ITS NUCLEAR ARSENAL.
DESPITE JAPANESE PROTESTATIONS TO CONTRARY, THERE
IS LOGIS IN ARGUMENT THAT JAPAN ACCEDED TO TREATY

BECAUSE OF PRESSURES FROM ITS MILITARY TO INCREASE ITS ACCESS TO SOPHISTICATED NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. FURTHER IRONY IS THAT ISRAEL, ALTHOUGH NOT SIGNATORY TO TREATY, IS DEVELOPING NUCLEAR CAPABILITY THANKS TO ASSISTANCE FROM ITS ALLIES (I.E. U.S.).

C. IDEA OF U.S. COMMITMENT TO SHARE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY WITH NPT ADHERENTS UNACCEPTABLE. THIS AMOUNTS TO BRIBERY.

D. IN SUM, ALGERIA CONSIDERS IT UP TO BIG POWERS TO SHOW WAY IN DISARMAMENT FIELD. WITH SALT STALLED, THIS NOT HAPPENING, AND GOA THEREFORE SEES NO POINT IN ADHERING TO NPT.

E. LTBT: ALGERIA'S DELAY IN RATIFYING LTBT PROBABLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO BUREAUCRATIC DELAY. GOA MAY POSSIBLY RATIFY TREATY ONCE ITS POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS ENTIRELY IN PLACE AND OPERATING LATER THIS YEAR. BY CONTRAST WITH NPT, LTBT IS LIMITED ACCORD DEALING WITH SPECIFIC PROBLEM, AND PRINCIPLES WERE NOT COMPROMISED BY SIGNING IT.

2. COMMENT: IN CONTRAST TO HIS PRESENTATION ON NPT, IN WHICH HE HAD LEARNED HIS LINES WELL, BEN YAQUB SEEMED UNSURE OF HIS GROUND ON LTBT. WE SUSPECT HE WAS WINGING IT ON LTBT AND DOUBT THAT BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS ALONE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GOA'S DELAY IN RATIFYING LATTER ACCORD.

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